

THE SCHIZOPHRENIC SYNDROME—Leopold Bellak, M.D., and Laurence Loeb, M.D., Editors. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. (10016), 1969. 879 pages, \$24.75.

Eleven years after the senior editor's last review of the schizophrenic syndrome, this even more authoritative and encyclopedic treatment of the subject with 20 chapters, 25 authors, and innumerable references is available. Bellak aptly begins his epilogue, "It is extremely unlikely that many a reader will have read through this volume from beginning to end. Even browsing or selective reading will have impressed on him the complexity of the schizophrenic syndrome. . . ." The significance of the public health problem represented by mental illness is brought home by the figures of an annual U.S. cost of 20 billion dollars, a daily patient census of 250,000 comprising one-fourth of all inpatients. Yolles points out that a minimum of 2 percent of persons born in 1960 will suffer an attack of schizophrenia some time during their lifetime and under certain conditions the maximum incidence is 6 percent. Bellak's basic philosophical position is attractive, namely that there is a group of schizophrenias, the syndrome (like inflammation) representing a final common path. Different etiologic factors play roles in different groups, and causation is multifactorial comprising genetic, physiological, psychological and social components.

To go on to some comment on content, Bellak presents in some detail including a long appendix his own reference on ego function patterns in schizophrenia. This highly technical exposition, utilizing much jargon, of one worker's efforts to delineate clearcut syndromes, however worthwhile, seems inappropriate in a general reference book. A similar criticism applies to Alexander's personal, rather anecdotal case for non-drug somatic therapies including insulin coma, though his descriptions of procedures are clear. Most chapters, those on general biological, neurophysiological and psychological studies; on sociocultural aspects, childhood and adolescent schizophrenia, antipsychotic drugs, group psychotherapy, and hospital and community psychiatric approaches are all remarkably comprehensive in citing the vast literature in these areas, and thus are invaluable as sources of reference. However, these chapters suffer badly from lack of critical comment upon the work they review and from inadequate analysis and synthesis of the material. Often poorly controlled studies or mediocre papers are given as much space as excellent research or creative formulations, e.g., recent work on perception, cognitive control and evoked cortical potentials or on family dynamics. A refreshing contrast is Kety's lucid chapter, albeit a skeptical one, on biochemical hypotheses and studies. There are good sections on symptomatology, diagnosis and course, prognosis, rehabilitation and a commendable stab at discussing prevention. Bellak and Loeb are successful and interesting in their comprehensive discussion of psychoanalytic, psychotherapeutic and psychodynamic studies. They convey a flavor of the thinking and methods of Sechehay, Boyer, Rosen, Searles, Laing, Lidz, Arieti (but not of the classic work of Sullivan and Fromm-Reichmann).

This book is encouraging in documenting the increasing sophistication and scope of research in schizophrenia, the usefulness of drugs, and the importance of the development of community approaches to mental health. The schizophrenias remain one of medicine's and society's great unsolved problems. Though a superb reference work, the general reader might well feel confused and overwhelmed by *The Schizophrenic Syndrome*. [A more readable, critically analytic (and cheaper) volume, which I have had the opportunity to preview, is C. P. Rosenbaum's *Perspec-*

tives on the Schizophrenias. Phenomenology, Sociology, Biology and Therapy to be published early in 1970 by Science House, N.Y.]

GEORGE F. SOLOMON, M.D.

* * *

ASSESSMENT OF CEREBRAL PALSY—Volume 1 (Muscle Function, Locomotion and Hand Function)—K. S. Holt, M.D. (Manchester, and Rochester, U.S.A.); M.R.C.P. (London); D.C.H. (England), Senior Lecturer in Child Health, University of Sheffield. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd., 49 Newman Street, London, 1965. (The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, exclusive U.S. agents.) 214 pages, \$9.00.

Cerebral palsy, a manifestation of a formidable variety of causes which damage the brain, appears in several forms and with varying degrees of neuromuscular involvement. There may be other defects, i.e., hearing, vision, impairment of intellectual development and seizures. In order to plan treatment effectively and to measure progress, all clinical features must be repeatedly reassessed. How this can be done for the physical aspects of cerebral palsy is described in *Assessment of Cerebral Palsy*, volume 1, by K. S. Holt.

Changes in the functional status of the cerebral palsied child occur as a result of factors associated with growth and development as modified by the existing abnormal neurological state. Further modification occurs as a result of the therapeutic efforts applied. With increasing introduction of systems of therapy which claim to be of value in the treatment of this group of conditions, a means of assessment which is objective can be extremely valuable to the cerebral palsy worker.

In this book, Dr. Holt presents a step by step demonstration of how to evaluate the child with cerebral palsy, and how to record results of the examination so that they can be used for comparison from one time to another. There are a number of photographs to aid the reader in following the described techniques.

The book should be of particular value to physicians who are not trained in orthopedic evaluation; however, the systematic approach to recording the observed data can be of value to all other physicians and therapists who carry out the prescription of the physician in charge.

The text is well annotated with references which are listed at the end of each chapter.

Dr. Holt indicates that this is the first of two volumes concerned with assessment of cerebral palsy, with the second volume planned to cover the assessment of sensory and intellectual factors. If the second volume is as good as the first it should be a valuable addition to the library of anyone concerned with the care of the cerebral palsied child.

PETER COHEN, M.D.

* * *

SYMPOSIA ON RECONSTRUCTIVE PLASTIC SURGERY AND ON SURGERY OF THE HAND—1. Reconstructive Plastic Surgery—John Marquis Converse, M.D., Guest Editor; 2. Practical Surgery of the Hand—Martin A. Entin, M.D., Guest Editor. (Reprinted from *Surgical Clinics of North America*, Volume 47, Number 2, April 1967, and Volume 48, Number 3, October 1968.) W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1968. 534 pages, \$15.00.

This volume is a reprint of two previously published issues of the *Surgical Clinics of North America*, well bound in an attractive hard cover.

The first part, edited by J. M. Converse in April 1967, contains two articles of basic studies, one on the biomechanical properties of skin, the other on histocompatibility. There are six articles on various aspects of reconstructive surgery for deformity following burns. The remaining five articles are on various aspects of hand surgery, as seen by the plastic surgeon.